

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RESTRAINING EXCESSIVE SEIZURE OF PROPERTY THROUGH THE EXPLOITATION OF CIVIL ASSET FORFEITURE TOOLS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5523, the Clyde-Hirsch-Sowers RESPECT Act. I am a proud cosponsor of this critically important bill because it addresses a major problem in current law—a problem that has directly affected at least one of my constituents in Northeast Georgia.

In fact, this bill is named after that constituent: Andrew Clyde. Andrew is a good, hardworking man, who is unfortunately all too familiar with the issue we're talking about today. Andrew owns Clyde Armory in Athens, Georgia. This is a legal, successful, firearms business, but it was targeted by the IRS under civil asset forfeiture laws.

Andrew is a combat veteran who grew this business in his community. He followed the law, paid his taxes on time, filed all the right paperwork—but that didn't stop several hundred thousand dollars from being seized from his business.

I think Andrew summed it up best when he testified before the Ways and Means Committee about this same issue: "I did not serve three combat tours in Iraq only to come home and be extorted."

What he doesn't say there—he was being extorted by his own government.

In April of 2013, two IRS agents simply showed up at Clyde Armory, and served Andrew with a seizure warrant letting him know that his business bank account had been nearly drained. He was not aware of any laws he may have broken, unintentionally or not, and had practices in place to ensure his business was fully compliant with all laws.

Over the course of a few months, the case wound up in federal court. After legal fees and the eventual surrender of \$50,000 to the IRS to end the matter, nearly \$150,000 had been carved out of the \$950,000 seizure.

Despite the fact that Andrew is a law-abiding citizen, the government was able to swoop in in the middle of the night and take private property absent evidence of wrongdoing and due process. That is why I have worked so hard on this issue—to prevent this kind of federal intrusion of the worst form.

H.R. 5523 would help to address this problem. It would prohibit the IRS from using civil asset forfeiture authority in structuring cases—the type of case under which Andrew was targeted—unless it can demonstrate probable cause that the funds were connected to criminal activity. Under H.R. 5523, the IRS must also establish notice and post-seizure review procedures for seizures based on structuring violations.

This bill is a step in the right direction, and a step towards preventing future wrongful seizures like the one that happened to Andrew Clyde. I thank Congressman ROSKAM for introducing this important legislation on behalf of Andrew Clyde and other victims of wrongful civil asset forfeiture, and I encourage all of my colleagues to support its passage.

EMPOWERING EMPLOYEES THROUGH STOCK OWNERSHIP ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Rep. PAULSEN and Rep. CROWLEY for bringing H.R. 5719, the Empowering Employees through Stock Ownership Act, to the floor. This is important legislation that will help start-ups attract and retain employees by allowing employees to obtain an ownership stake in those companies without facing cost-prohibitive tax bills.

Often, privately held start-ups provide employees stock ownership options as part of their compensation package. Under current law, employees that receive company shares as part of their compensation package must pay the taxes on the value of those shares taxes immediately, long before the employees realize the economic benefit of those shares.

This bill would allow employees to defer the tax on stock shares that companies provide employees as part of their compensation package for seven years or until the company can sell their stock on publically traded exchanges. Additionally, it would increase access to company equity for lower-wage earners.

Studies have shown that closely held companies that combine employee ownership with employee workplace participation programs have a positive impact on employee productivity and improve overall company performance.

Employees working for businesses in my district such as Neighborland and hobbyDB—both located in Boulder—have expressed their support for this bill and will be able to take advantage of its tax benefits.

Other types of employee-ownership models have helped businesses have a higher growth rate and stay in business. Employee-ownership models are good for the company, the employees, and the community.

In Colorado, there are approximately 118 businesses that use employee-owned businesses that promote employee ownership through stock option plans or ESOPs.

A good example of a successful ESOP is Fire Safety Services. The owner, Jeff wanted to be able to offer his employees a stake in the business and converted his business to an ESOP. This allowed him to create a succession plan so the business can remain locally

owned. Jeff noted that after the conversion, employee morale was up and sales were up.

The New Belgium Brewery, located in Ft. Collins is also an ESOP. From the perspective of the employees, New Belgium has a culture of personal and collective growth—the employees are concerned about the professional growth of their colleagues and also have a vested stake in the management and economic health of the company.

The bill before us will make it easier for employees in other privately-held companies to participate in the growth of their company.

HONORING FIRST LIEUTENANT JEFFREY D. COOPER

HON. SUZAN K. DeBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Ms. DeBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor First Lieutenant Jeffrey D. Cooper from Mill Creek, Washington.

Lieutenant Cooper died on September 10, 2016, while serving in Kuwait. He was serving in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, a part of the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Lieutenant Cooper was just 25 years old.

He joined the Army in June 2013 and had been assigned at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, since July 2015.

Lieutenant Cooper was an infantry officer assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division.

His awards and decorations include the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Army Service Ribbon.

While no words can hope to ease the pain and grief of his loss, my heart goes out to Lieutenant Cooper's parents—Master Sergeant Douglas Cooper and Diane Cooper—and all his loved ones. This was a tragic loss of a brave young man who was ready and willing to give his life for our great nation. Our country mourns with you.

Let us take a moment of silence to honor his life and service.

THE 105TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

HON. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, on October 10, the people of Taiwan celebrate the 105th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China (Taiwan). As we approach this important day, we

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

should take the time to commemorate Taiwan, an important economic partner and vital ally in Asia.

This past year, the world witnessed Taiwan's third peaceful transition to power as the first woman was elected in Taiwan. The 23 million people on the island represent the only democracy in the Chinese speaking world. Taiwan has been a reliable partner in East Asia. According to the U.S. Dept. of Commerce, U.S. trade in goods with Taiwan reached US\$ 66 billion last year. For a population of only 23 million, Taiwan has become the United States' 9th largest trading partner in 2015. Also, Taiwan is the state of New York's 6th largest export market in Asia.

On Taiwan's National Day, we reaffirm the strength of the U.S.-Taiwan relationship and the United States commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act. It is an honor and privilege to support our friend and partner Taiwan and highlight the bonds that connect us.

RECOGNIZING TABLE TO TABLE'S EFFORTS DURING FOOD RESCUE AWARENESS WEEK

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the wonderful work of Table to Table during Food Rescue Awareness Week, which is being held September 24th through 30th. For the last twenty years, Table to Table has been committed to collecting nutritional, high-quality food from donors and distributing it through food establishments, food pantries, meal sites, and shelters to those who need it most in Johnson County.

I grew up in poverty, and I know firsthand what it is like to worry about where my next meal might come from. Growing up, my single mom relied on food stamps at times in order to be able to feed my brothers, sister and me. I strongly believe that no Iowa child or family should go to bed hungry or have to wonder how they will afford their next meal.

Hunger unfortunately continues to be a major problem in America and for many Iowa families. In Johnson County, one in seven residents relies on nutritional assistance in some way. That is why I am so grateful for Table to Table's efforts to fight food insecurity. Founded in 1996, Table to Table was the first food rescue charity in Iowa. Since then, Table to Table has provided the equivalent of 12.5 million meals consisting of food that would otherwise have been wasted and deposited in the landfill. This great organization has over 100 regular volunteers, collects from over 40 donation sites, and delivers to 36 agency sites.

On behalf of all of my constituents, I would like to thank Bob Andriak, Executive Director of Table to Table, for his years of service, and Table to Table for providing quality nutrition for those who need it. I know I join my colleagues, friends, and fellow Iowans in wishing Table to Table the best of success during this year's Food Rescue Awareness Week and urging folks who can to contribute food or volunteer.

HONORING METRO TRANSIT SYSTEM OF THE YEAR

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Metro Transit on being named Transit System of the Year. This year, Metro Transit served nearly 86 million riders while offering excellent and reliable service.

The American Public Transportation Association's Outstanding Public Transportation System Achievement Award reflects accomplishments made between 2013 and 2015. During this time, Metro Transit increased ridership, expanded access, improved sustainability practices, and increased overall success in system safety. Metro Transit was singled out among all North America agencies that provide more than 20 million annual passenger trips.

Metro Transit plays a vital role in the Twin Cities by providing clean, safe, reliable, and affordable transportation service every day to thousands of commuters, residents, workers, and visitors. In 2015, Metro Transit had its highest ridership in 30 years, with total annual rides of over 85 million. Metro Transit's commitment to sustainability through its transition to lower emission vehicles benefits everyone in the region, whether they use transit or not. Metro Transit not only makes transportation more accessible to workers, it also employs over 3,100 people in the Twin Cities.

I am pleased to say that Metro Transit contributes to the quality of life and preserves the livability of the Twin Cities by mitigating traffic impacts, providing easier access to local businesses, reducing air pollution, and improving circulation throughout the cities.

On behalf of the residents of Minnesota's 5th Congressional District, I congratulate the entire Metro Transit System, its employees, and its Board of Directors, for their efforts and significant contributions to the Greater Minneapolis Area, and for their nationally recognized achievements in providing the highest quality transit service.

CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST RISES TO THE FUTURE

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated natural resource management professionals at the Chippewa National Forest for their excellent work on the replacement of the Knutson Dam at the outlet of Cass Lake to the Mississippi River.

Staff at the national forest and their community partners earned the "Rise to the Future" award, one of the U.S. Forest Service's most prestigious awards, for their utilization of a design called Rock Arch Rapids, which allows aquatic wildlife to travel freely between Cass Lake and the Upper Mississippi river. Before the construction of Rock Arch Rapids, the Knutson Dam, a logging dam built in the early 1900's, blocked the passage of fish between Cass Lake and the Mississippi river. Further-

more the dam was at the end of its usable life and required more and more costly repairs each year.

The complete replacement of the dilapidated logging dam was a collaboration between Chippewa National Forest, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership and Ottertail Power Company. The new Rock Arch Rapids not only improves access to Cass Lake for aquatic life but also access to the lake by outdoor enthusiasts, and minimizes erosion of Cass Lake's shoreline to preserve the beautiful campgrounds, trails and beaches of the Chippewa National Forest for years to come.

Please join me in congratulating the staff at Chippewa National Forest and their community partners for their prestigious achievement.

TRIBUTE TO HENDRICKS COUNTY, INDIANA

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute Hendricks County, Indiana, as the Indiana Bicentennial Torch is scheduled to pass through the county on Friday, September 23, 2016.

The county sits on the southern part of Indiana's Fourth Congressional District. It was named for Indiana Governor William Hendricks, who was serving at the time the county was formed in 1824. The county seat is located in Danville, which happens to be the location of my primary district office. Hendricks County is recognized as a logistics and transportation hub in Indiana and for the many motorsports companies that are headquartered there.

In this year of the Hoosier Bicentennial, communities throughout the state are celebrating Indiana's past and present through Bicentennial Legacy Projects. These projects are generally, culturally inclusive, celebratory, engaging and inspiring to youth and young adults and create a legacy for the future. The organizations responsible for the twenty-five Legacy Projects throughout the county are: Avon-Washington Township Public Library, Cascade Middle School, The Porch, Brownsburg Educational Foundation, Rotary Club of Plainfield, Indiana, Plainfield Chamber of Commerce, Hendricks County Parks and Recreation, First Baptist Church of Amo, B&O Trail Association, Inc., Montrose Farms, Danville Rotary Club, Friends of Hendricks County Museum, the Town of Avon, the Town of Brownsburg, RAHC Committee, Avon Community Heritage Festival Board, Wa-Pe-Ke-Way Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Brownsburg Chamber of Commerce, Scrapbasket Quilt Guild of Brownsburg, K-Kids Club of Danville South Elementary School, Greater Danville Chamber of Commerce and Animalia, Inc. Hoosiers look forward to their enduring contribution to our state's legacy.

And on this day, Mr. Speaker, in the year in which we are celebrating Indiana's 200th birthday, I am proud to recognize Hendricks County for the contribution of its residents to the past, present and future of Indiana's history.